



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RHODE ISLAND'S HOUSING AUTHORITIES RECEIVE OVER \$600,000

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded a total of \$598,318 to ten housing authorities across Rhode Island. The awards were allocated to cover operation costs associated with the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program.

HUD's HCV/FSS program provides funds to public housing agencies specifically for the employment of family self-sufficiency coordinators. The positions assure that program participants are linked to training and support services needed to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency. These include assistance in job training, childcare, counseling, transportation and job placement programs.

“With these dollars, local communities will not only be able to reach out and provide housing to those most in need, but will also be able to help focus program participants on obtaining good jobs, saving money, getting off government assistance, and returning to being contributing members of the community,” said Senator Chafee.

Participants in the job preparedness program, some of whom are on welfare, sign a contract that stipulates the head of the household will get a job and the family will become self-sufficient within five years. While enrolled in the program, as a family's income rises, a third of that income goes to an interest-bearing escrow account. If a family fulfills the contract requiring employment and independence from welfare, they can use the escrow account for down payment on a home purchase, starting a business, paying back debts and paying educational expenses.

The following Rhode Island Housing Authorities will receive funding as part of the HCV/FSS program:

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- Providence Housing Authority – \$121,546
- Narragansett Housing Authority – \$74,181
- Rhode Island Housing Authority – \$63,000
- Central Falls Housing Authority – \$61,587
- Housing Authority of the Town of East Greenwich – \$53,800
- Town of North Providence Housing Authority – \$53,530
- Coventry Housing Authority – \$47,200
- Housing Authority of the City of Woonsocket – \$45,000
- Cumberland Housing Authority – \$44, 474
- Town of Johnston Housing Authority – \$34,000

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